

Minneapolis Redistricting Commission Minutes

Regular Session of the Redistricting Commission

Monday, April 8, 2002, 6 PM

Room 220 City Hall

Present: Commissioners: Trostel, Claypatch, Collier, Ferrara, Markus, Pettiford, Schwarzkopf, Stafford, Neiman, Scallon

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1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Commission Chair Trostel called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. All Commission members but Commissioner Finch were present.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Markus moved to approve the agenda. Ferrara seconded the motion. It was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

3. Approval of the Minutes for April 2, 2002

*Collier moved to accept the minutes with the following amendments: insert the word **about** in the second paragraph on page 3 and add "**many people have called to say**" instead of also to the third sentence of the fourth paragraph on page 3. Pettiford seconded the motion. Motion adopted on a unanimous voice vote as amended.*

4. Guidelines for drafting Park Board maps

The current map and deviations was introduced.

<i>Current Districts</i>	<i>current deviation</i>
<i>District1 NE &SE</i>	<i>-1.76</i>
<i>District 2 North</i>	<i>+5.17</i>
<i>District 3 Center</i>	<i>+5.61</i>
<i>District 4 Downtown</i>	<i>+0.97</i>
<i>District 5 S & E</i>	<i>-6.99</i>
<i>District 6 SW</i>	<i>-3.00</i>

Districts 2 and 3 are over and Districts 5 and 6 are under. The ideal population number per district is 63,770. They would like to work on the neighborhood splits. Use similar guidelines that were used to draw the Ward lines. Try to use natural boundaries. By law, the proposed Park District lines

can not significantly deviate much from the 1974 lines. Park Board boundaries cannot divide precincts but the precincts will be drawn after the Park Board boundaries are complete. Minority opportunity districts are considered to have either 40% or 50%, which are districts 2 and 3 but the minority person now on the Park Board comes from a different district. Neighborhoods, if possible, will not be split. The goal is 1 to 1.5 percent deviation. There will be a proposed tentative Park District plan by April 11, 2002 before the ward boundaries are finalized. Compact and contiguous lines must be used.

Assistant City Attorney Michael Norton said the Park Board boundaries do not have to follow the City Ward and Congressional/Legislative lines. Quoting from the memo dated February 27, 2002 about the Special Law of 1992 Chapter 361 purports to set standards for the Park Board. Have to determine the ideal population – 63,770. Deviation is plus or minus 5 % for the Park Board Districts. The territories must be contiguous and compact, not more than twice as long as wide. Rule #3 says the newly drawn district shall retain the same numerical designation as the previously existing district from which the newly drawn district received the largest portion of its population. There is a conflict between Rule 3 of the Special Law and Charter Chapter 16 section 1 which says you will retain as nearly as practicable the prior existing boundary lines. The way to go is to not have a significant deviation from the existing boundaries and following all the other rules. The Special Law language would prevail. Rule #4 must not dilute the voting strength of racial or language minorities. The Commission can not implement this rule without following the other guidelines. Rule #5 taking into consideration communities of interest is permissible. Rule #6 the Commission must use the 2000 Census numbers, you can not make up figures.

5. Budget update

Budgeted amount is \$95,700, year to date expenses \$21,285.69, encumbered \$26,629.88 and the amount remaining \$47,784.43.

6. Discussion of Procedures on April 12

Markus deferred to the good judgement of the Chair on this matter.

Chair Trostel's statement about the procedures to follow on April 12, 2002:

On Friday, April 12, there may be several people wanting to make one or more amendments to the proposed plan. The Commissioners might think that some of those changes are not substantive and do not materially alter the maps or tables. This will not be true of all of those changes; some will be substantial and substantive. At first, I thought we could draw a distinction between the substantive and non-substantive with a number – 100 people plus or minus - or with a percentage - .4% or 1%. However, the more I think

this through and the more I talk to others, Commissioners and staff, the more I think that you will have to come in with a full blown map and table for each change. And the motion will be a substitution, not an amendment to the proposed plan.

If there are a group of non-controversial changes, what some might call "technical" changes, for instance, ones to meet problems with the legislative boundaries, then I think that all of those should come in on one map and its accompanying table. The proposers should make a motion to substitute this map and table for the tentative map now in play. The problem with this approach is that one person's technical change is another's substantive change. So, you will have to talk with each other to make sure that this non-controversial substitution is really non-controversial.

A significant reason that I think that each new proposal should have a map and table is that these will be needed to determine if the charter, statutory and case law rules are being followed.

Using this method we could have a whole series of substitution maps and tables to prepare before next Friday which would mean a lot of work from now until next Friday. On the other hand, that is exactly what should happen. We should have our ducks in a row by next Friday. On Friday we should have a plan which at least five Commissioners, hopefully more and not including the Chair, can support.

The bottom line here is that I recommend that any change to the tentative plan be made in the form of a new map and table, which any one Commissioner can move as a substitute and get a second.

I do not intend to take any comment from the audience at the Monday, April 8, or Friday, April 12, meetings.

Stafford wanted clarification about the ability to have a substitute plan and can amend the substitute motion. Stafford asked about the Commission being a continuing body as to what actions they can take.

Norton said any previous plans were all related to the subject matter of the last meeting and what was the tentative plan. The Commission has a tentative plan. Conceivable anyone of you or group of you could offer an amendment of any kind including other proposed tentative plans that were not adopted. You just could not have done it at the last meeting. It is a new meeting and you have a new plan and a new subject matter and you can submit any amendments you want. It is not a motion for reconsideration because you are beyond selecting a tentative plan. You now have a tentative plan before you, which you are going to amend in order to adopt a final plan. You now have any number of possibilities for what could be your final plan, including plans that might have failed in the past. It is up for the Chair to rule and for the body to determine whether they want to go along with it.

Chair Trostel said once you substitute one of the plans we looked at last time if somebody votes it down once that is the end of it on April 12th. It is do or die on the 12th and everything is open for discussion.

Collier moved that the Commission use the tentative plan approved at the last meeting as the basis for any changes on April 12, 2002 and that they use the procedures outlined in the memo from Chair Trostel listed in this section.

Ferrara seconded the motion. It passed on a unanimous voice vote with Neiman and Scallon declining to vote.

7. New Business

The Commission will have turkey box lunches from Chesson's brought in for the meeting at noon on Friday April 12, 2002 meeting.

The meeting on April 18, 2002 will be in room 132 at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Trostel will respond to the Al Kelly email.

- 8 Collier moved to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Claypatch seconded the motion. It passed on unanimous voice vote.

**Next Redistricting Commission Meeting: April 11, 2002 6 - 8 PM Room 317
City Hall**

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